

Oakland Army Base, Printing Plant
(Storehouse, Building No. 85)
Attu Street at Baku Street
Oakland
Alameda County
California

HAER No. CA-125-E

HAER
CAL
1-OAK,
12E-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

OAKLAND ARMY BASE, PRINTING PLANT (Storehouse)(Building No. 85)

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HAER No. CA-125-E

Location: Attu Street at Baku Street
USGS Oakland West Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: Northing 4184900, Easting 560150

Date of Construction: 1942

Architect: U.S. Engineer Office, San Francisco, California, using a modified SH-13 Warehouse design.

Contractor: Construction records do not indicate the contractor for this building. At least initially, some 600 black troops of the 394th Quartermaster Battalion helped in construction of the Installation. Additional subcontractors and suppliers consisted primarily of businesses in the San Francisco Bay area.

Present Owner and Occupant: Military Traffic Management Command, Western Area
Oakland Army Base, CA 94626-5000

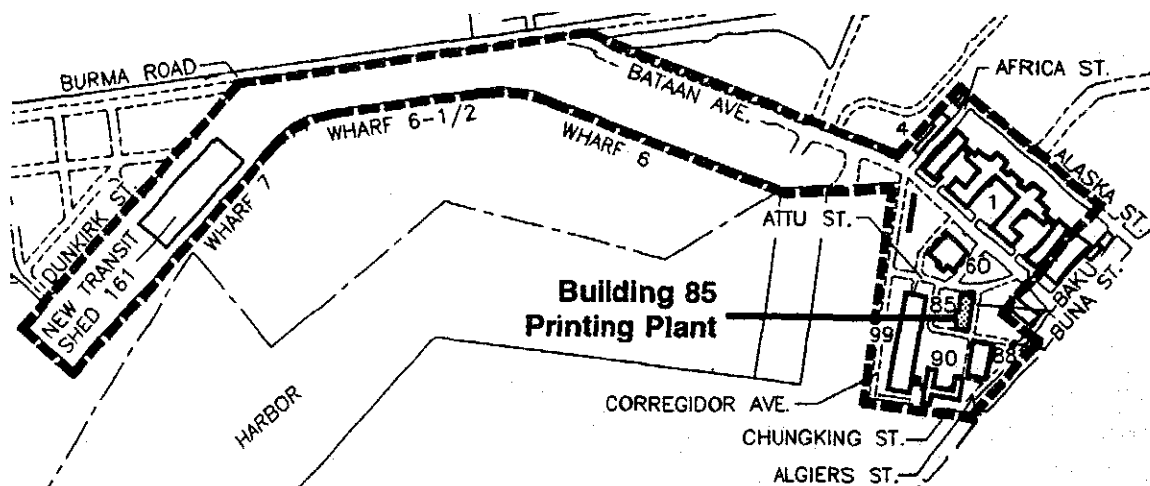
Original Use: Storehouse

Present Use: Printing Plant

Significance: Building 85 was a structure used in support of Oakland Army Base's World War II mission.

Original Plans: Original plans were located in the OARB Engineering Office. According to the Real Property Record, the full set of As-Built's consisted of 3 drawings: #97-16-23, Sheets 1-3, all accounted for.

Alterations: Real Property Records indicate that a 330 SF room was added to the west side of the building in July 1974 after a fire damaged part of



the structure. The extent of fire damage is not recorded. The building has undergone periodic repainting; all original lighting, and much of the electric wiring, has been replaced; a photo lab has been installed.

I. GENERAL STATEMENT

Architectural Character. This one story wood frame structure is typical of many temporary World War II utilitarian buildings.

Condition of Fabric. The building's fabric is in only average condition, with deteriorating and stained wood siding and decking.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTERIOR

Overall Dimensions. The footprint of this building covers a total of 10,924 square feet (*Photographs CA-125-E-1 and E-2*). Included in this total is 9,267 square feet of enclosed area, and a 1657 square foot loading platform stretching nearly the entire length of the building's west side (*Photographs CA-125-E-3 and E-4*). Approximate dimensions of the building are 153'-2" by 60'-6". The platform is 153'-2" long by 9'-9" wide.

Foundations. The building is founded on continuous foundation walls and spread footings; the loading platform is on isolated concrete pedestals.

Walls. The exterior walls remain as originally constructed: wood stud structure with painted horizontal board siding over diagonal wood sheathing.

Structural System. Standard wood stud framing with wood posts are the building's framing system.

Porches, Stoops, Balconies. On the west side of the building is a loading dock approximately 3 feet above grade. It is constructed of wood decking on wood joists and girders. Wood decking is painted to match the building's wood siding. Wood steps with handrails provide access at both ends of the platform.

Chimneys. None.

Openings. Wood sash windows are provided on all four sides of the building. Some windows appear to have been removed and covered over with siding. Two sets of double doors are positioned near the ends of both the east and west sides of the structure.

Roof. The roof, pitched 3 in 12, is surfaced with green asphalt shingles on a wood deck.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERIOR

Floor Plans. The plan is a long rectangle running north-south. The interior is predominantly open. Four offices, entered from the interior, close off the northern end. The offices are uniformly 18'-1" long. Two offices are 15' wide; the remaining two are

15'-3" wide. The south end of the building is partitioned into a rest room (18'-1" x 15'-3") and two bathrooms (18'-1" x 15') (*Photographs CA-125-E-5*).

Stairways. There are no interior stairways.

Flooring. Flooring is vinyl tile over 2" wood planking on wood joists.

Wall and Ceiling Finishes. The interior walls and ceiling are wood lined, then painted.

Openings. Wood frame sash windows are used throughout the building (*Photograph CA-125-E-6*). Doors are solid and originally swung two ways, but now open only outward. The original plans indicate that the four existing doors and three sets of windows on each side were constructed with wider lintels to allow for future sliding doors. These doors were never installed.

Decorative Features and Trims. No distinctive decorative features were included in the plans for the interior or exterior of the structure.

Hardware. No notable hardware.

Mechanical Equipment. Building 85 was originally equipped with gas space heaters in the offices and on the main floor. Most or all of these units have been converted and/or replaced. All interior areas of the building were lit by overhead fluorescent reflector units. Incandescent lights were wall mounted on the exterior. Virtually all of the original lighting, both interior and exterior, has been replaced. Original plumbing in the bathrooms has also been replaced.

Original Furnishings. None.

IV. SITE

General Setting and Orientation. Building 85 is located in the mixed land use area south of the Post Headquarters Building. To the south and west are port facilities operated by Port of Oakland. Maritime Street, a main surface transportation artery, borders this mixed land use area to the east.

Historic Landscaping Design. No plant material exists in the vicinity of Building 85.

Outbuildings. None.

V. SOURCES

Architectural Drawings. Real Property Records for Building 85 indicate that there were 3 pages of architectural drawings for this structure (#97-16-23, Sheets 1-3) which were all located at the OARB Engineering Office. Sheet 1 showing plans, elevations, sections, and details has been reproduced and is included as a supplement to this survey.

Early Views. The contractor's "Completion Report" includes a photograph of the completed structure, dated March 13, 1942 (*Photograph CA-125-10*).